

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claim 1 is canceled. Claims 2-21 are added to encompass infringing subject matter. No new matter has been added. Prompt and favorable consideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

If anything further could be done to place the above-captioned patent application in better condition for allowance (i.e., via Examiner's Amendment), then please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please grant any extension(s) of time deemed necessary for entry of this communication. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper filed hereafter) to Deposit Account No. **14-1140**. Please credit any overpayment of fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

Date: March 29, 2004

By:   
Willem F. Gadiano  
Reg. No. 37,136

WFG:ewm  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100